



## Dry River Trail

The Dry River Trail has been closed to the public. The closure was put in place following Tropical Storm Irene. Many unexpected and significant safety concerns presented themselves along the trail due to the storm's heavy rains. The Dry River drainage is a steep and reactive drainage, even during minor rain events - during the course of an average rainy day the change in the water level is perceptible over a matter of hours. This became exponential during the storm, especially when considering that some of the highest rainfall amounts fell on the slopes that funnel into the Dry River.

There are numerous places along the trail where varying degrees of erosion are present. There is evidence in some of the lower lying places that the trail was completely submerged by the river leaving small rocks, gravel and sand distributed along the trail, occasionally accented by trenches of varying length, 1 -2 feet deep, carved into the trail. These areas may need some degree of repair and rehabilitation but don't pose significant hazards.



There are, however, multiple places where the trail was obliterated by the river and the channel has been widened and scoured the rocks, roots and trees that kept the banks – and in many places the trail – stable. There are multiple areas where the trail leads to an abrupt 10 – 20 foot drop above into the river creating an unexpected falling hazard. Still other portions of the trail directly adjacent the river have been scoured and undermined; what looks to be a stable trail tread is actually just a thin veneer of organic material suspended 25 feet above the river with no bank beneath it to support the trail or its users.

In addition to the falling hazards, navigation and route finding has become difficult due to the changed landscape – some trail junctions no longer exist. In areas where the trail has disappeared, it is challenging to find where it picks up again. Several of the designated campsites along the trail were also obliterated.

The Dry River Trail will be surveyed in more detail by trail professionals during the 2012 summer season to begin identifying a long-term solution for the trail. In the meantime, please be observe the closure and be patient as we continue to restore the many trail, roads, bridges, and sites damaged from the storm.

